

A Celebration of Memorial Hill

30 May 2001

A landmark is a reference point, a place to get your bearings, a physical feature, a stalwart friend and sentinel.

One such landmark is Memorial Hill in Midway. You may not know it but this particu-

lar landmark is more than just a hill with a flag on it. It is a look out, a World War II battlefield, a mini ecosystem, a child's wilderness.

Some confuse Memorial Hill with Mound City. Actually, Mound City was located to the northwest of Memorial Hill, among a field of limestone hot pots and hot springs.

Memorial Hill was once called Jesse's Mound, named after it's owner, Jesse McCarroll, but that was long after Mound City had merged with the lower settlement

to the south on the Snake Creek to establish Midway. In those day's Memorial Hill was a look-out point for settlers worried about possible Indian attacks. In by-gone days my father-in-law played World War II battle games there when he lived to the hill's west-side as a young boy. I think it's interesting that even as he played war there, the hill had already been dedicated as a place of honor for all the soldiers from Wasatch County, soldiers who fought on real and distant battlefields. One

year, back when Midway's Fourth of July celebration was held at the top of the Memorial Hill, a group of Midway's children, my husband among them, hid in the bushes and watched Governor Rampton's car ascend the hill. He was the featured speaker that day.

The first Twenty-fourth of July I ever spent in the Heber Valley, I spent on top of Memorial Hill. We climbed the hill to view the Charleston fireworks. My husband and I were newly married.

My own children played on this very same Memorial Hill that

their father and grandfather played on. They too climbed her trails and explored her secrets as only children can.

When our friends from Salt Lake City come to visit, we always include a trip to the top of Memorial Hill. The children always challenge the adults to a race down the hill. They race down the pathways on foot while the adults, back in the car, travel down the hill more sedately.

It never mattered which trail the children took, they were always perched on top of the rock markers at the entrance of the hill waiting for the car to finish the "race."

My oldest daughter took a walking field trip to Memorial Hill in the spring of her fourth grade year with her class. Her teacher, Jeff Besendorfer warned her class never to leave the trails and wander around in the brush.

"Mr. Jeff" showed the children how to find black widow nests and the homes of scorpions. He told them if they stayed on the trails, they wouldn't have any trouble with those creatures.

Today, no matter where I go in the valley, Memorial Hill continues to calls out to me. She can be seen from Charleston, Daniel and Heber City; from the North fields,

the South fields and along State Road 189 from Heber to Charleston.

Driving home from Provo, I round a bend alongside Deer Creek, look to the northeast and Wilson's Peak, then search the ridge lines until Memorial Hill comes into view.

"You're almost home," I think I hear her say.

Traveling back from Salt Lake City, I get that feeling before Memorial Hill can even be seen. All it takes is a right turn off of Highway 40 and onto River Road.

At dusk or on a dark night, the flag light a top Memorial Hill beckons me home when her form can no longer be seen.

Is she the most beautiful hill in the valley? Not by a long shot. Not with Burgi Hill, Wilson Peak, Mount Majestic and Timpanogos surrounding her. I don't think it's her beauty that calls me, rather its the feeling of place and of centeredness she gives me.

When I see her standing in her place day after day it's a feeling that all is right in the world and things are as they should be. Nothing in this world ever said 'you're almost home' to me in quite the way Memorial Hill does.



ors to make the presentations to the students.

The following list of contributors to the foundation helped to make 2001 the most awarded thus far:

Lacy Burgi Fitzgerald - Music \$1,000; Preparedness Foundation (Nitro-Pak) - Business \$1,000, Humanities \$750, Fine Arts \$750. Ruth Schneitter \$500, Park City Area Home Builders \$500, Wasatch Aero Services \$500, United Park City Mine Company (three scholarships) \$1500, Preparedness Foundation (Nitro-Pak) General (5 scholarships) \$1500, Binggeli Rock (4 scholarships) \$1000, Days Marked Place (2 scholarships) \$600, Wasatch County Recreation (2 scholarships) \$600, Brian Winegar Accounting (2 scholarships) \$600, Heber Valley Medical Center Pink Ladies (2 scholarships) \$600, Heber Valley Medical Center (2 scholarships) \$600, Classified Employees Association \$300, Mair's Photography \$300, Mair's Dutch Oven Lifters \$300, Choralettes' \$300, First Reliance Mortgage \$300, Wasatch Medical Clinic \$600, Foundation General Fund \$9,000, Foundation Alternative School (2 scholarships) \$1,000.

Foundation Board Chairperson LaRee O. Pedro expressed appreciation to the generous donors in making scholarships available to this years students.

"All labor to administer and operate the Foundation is volunteer or provided through the



Wasatch School District Foundation awarded their annual Education Scholarships to the Senior class of 2001 last week. Monies donated through the foundation's matching grant program awarded 48 students scholarships to further their educational goals. Scholarship Chairman, Randall Probst and 2001 Foundation Chair, LaRee Pedro, congratulated senior recipients.

deductible contribution to the Foundation. Do something for education. Special needs projects funded will benefit our young people", Said Ms. Pedro.

The Wasatch School District Foundation was established to provide new methods of providing monies needed for essential and enrichment needs in education. Through the Foundation, anyone can become a partner in education.

Patrons contribute ideas, time, talents and can even make tax deductible contributions.

"The need exists and only through everyone's help and generosity can we achieve the excellence in education for which Wasatch School District is striving.

"It's easy to become involved today, give time, share talents, create ideas, contribute financially.

"Please Help make Wasatch County's educational system the best for our students," said Pedro.

Students were generally considered for only one of the foundation scholarships. Exceptions



every effort to be fair and just in portioning assistance.

The foundation, through the general fund, enhances contributions by adding additional dollars to a scholarship awarded by the foundation in the donors name.

The minimum match for this year was a contribution of \$300 to which the foundation added \$200 to make the awarded schol-



arship of \$500.

Additional donation matches were also available.

2001 Wasatch School District Foundation board members include Shauna Van Wagoner, Clint Kelson, Bobby Salazar, Douglas Hardy, Jim Kaiserman, Laura Camper, Mary Bluth, Blaik Baird, Kevin Cannon, and District Superintendent Danny Talbot.